IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph on page 2 beginning at line 3 as follows:

Synthesis of 2*H*-benzopyrans (chrom-3-enes) has been the subject of many investigations. Dotz, K. H. *Pure & Appl. Chem.* **1983**, *55*, 1689 and references cited therein; (b) Henry, G.E.; Jacobs, H. *Tetrahedron* **2001**, *57*, 5335; (c) Chang, S. et al., *J. Org. Chem.*. **1998**, *63*, 864; (d) Saimoto, H. et al., *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 6768; (e) North, J. T. et al., *J. Org. Chem.* **1995**, *60*, 3397; (f) Gabbutt, C. D. et al., *Tetrahedron* **1994**, *50*, 2507; (g) Cruz-Almanza, R. et al., *Heterocycles* **1994**, *37*, 759; (h) Rao, U. et al., *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1983**, *24*, 5023; (i) Sartori, G. et al., *J. Org. Chem.* **1979**, *44*, 803. The reaction developed by Shigemasa appeared to be quite promising for the synthesis of this class of natural products. Saimoto, H. et al., *J. Org. Chem.*, **1996** *61*, 6768. Unfortunately, the reaction between **16** **6** and **3a** is extremely slow under Shigemasa's conditions (see Figure 1). The mixture gave only 15% yield of the desired product **4a** (B = Et) after heating at reflux for four days (see Table 1, hereinbelow, entry 1). The yield was improved to 32% when the mixture was heated at 90°C in a sealed tube for one day (Table 1, entry 2). However, the reaction stopped, and the yield is not improved even with the addition of excess of aldehyde **3a** and with longer heating time.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3 beginning at line 2 as follows:

The present invention provides an efficient synthesis of benzo[b]pyrene (chromo-3-ones), including the potent anti-HIV natural product, daurichromenic acid (**1a**), as well as related compounds, including intermediates useful for the synthesis thereof. The synthesis involves a microwave-assisted tandem aldol reaction of a phenolic enolate, followed by intramolecular SN2' type cyclization to form the 2H-benzo-pyran core structure. In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method for preparing daurichromenic acid (**1a**), comprising (a) reacting 2-methyl-4,6-dihydroxybenzoic ~~2-methyl-4,5-dihydroxybenzoic~~ acid having a carboxy-protecting group with a compound of the formula (**3a**):

Please amend the paragraph on page 7 beginning at line 8 as follows:

Another embodiment of the invention provides a method for preparing daurichromenic acid (**1a**), comprising (a) reacting 2-methyl-4,6-dihydroxybenzoic ~~2-methyl-4,5-dihydroxybenzoic~~ acid having a carboxy-protecting group (B) with a compound of the formula (**3a**):